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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,181	10/16/2003	Hiroki Moriyama	P/3541-45	9066

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EXAMINER

FLANAGAN, BEVERLY MEINDL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/687,181	Applicant(s) MORIYAMA, HIROKI	
	Examiner Beverly M. Flanagan	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

B. M. Flanagan
BEVERLY M. FLANAGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See attached</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in PCT on April 8, 2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the PCT application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements filed October 16, 2003, December 5, 2003 and March 10, 2005 has been made of record and the references cited therein have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Application Publication No. JP 2001-224550.

In regard to claims 1 and 2, JP 2001-224550 teaches a detachable endoscopic hood 6 having an attachment portion 7 that is fitted on an outer peripheral surface of an end portion 5 of an insertion portion of an endoscope, having a protruding portion 6a, 6b that protrudes from an end surface of the insertion portion of the endoscope in an axial

direction (see Figure 1). An illumination light leading portion 6c is provided on the protruding portion 6a, 6b and is arranged at such a position that a distance from an illumination lens 12 which emits the illumination light is shorter than a distance from the object lens 11 of the endoscope (see Figures 1 and 4). **In regard to claim 7**, JP 2001-224550 show that protruding portion 6c has an end portion that is molded into such a shape that it does not enter an observation image of the endoscope.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Application Publication No. JP 2001-224550 in view of Japanese Application Publication No. JP 2002-95623.

In regard to claim 3, JP 2001-224550 is silent as to a concave portion formed by notching the end portion of the protruding portion 6c. However, JP 2002-95623 disclose a similar endoscopic hood having a notch 2a formed in a protruding portion 2 by the exit of illumination light from the endoscope (see Figures 3 and 4). JP 2002-95623 further shows that the protruding portion 2 is molded at substantially the same angle as an outgoing radiation angle of the illumination light (see Figure 3). JP 2002-95623 thus demonstrates that endoscopic hoods having notches formed in a protruding

portion and that are molded at substantially the same angle as outgoing radiation of the illumination light are well known in the art. Accordingly, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the protruding portion 6c of JP 2002-224550 with the notch and angle disclosed in the protruding portion of JP 2002-95623 in the interest of equipping the hood with proper illumination light transmission capabilities.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant should note the following examples of prior art endoscopic hoods: Ishibiki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,855,108 – same assignee as the instant application); Ouchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,976,073); Laser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,667,475) ; Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,306,081) and Ouchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,487).

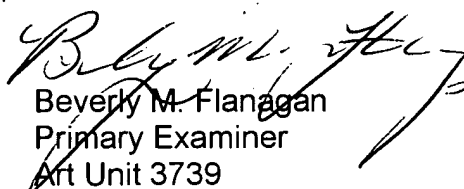
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beverly M. Flanagan whose telephone number is (571)

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272-4766. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Beverly M. Flanagan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739
